

# Gümüşler Monastery and the Underground City

Niğde Museum where the Rich and Unique Artefacts of Anatolian Archaeology are Exhibited

*Don't Miss*



## Gümüşler Monastery and Underground City Visiting Hours

1 April-31 October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00

Box Office Closing: 18.45

1 April-31 October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30	17.30

Box Office Closing: 17.15

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Address Gümüşler Beldesi, Merkez/Niğde

Please visit the website for current information.



[www.muze.gov.tr](http://www.muze.gov.tr)

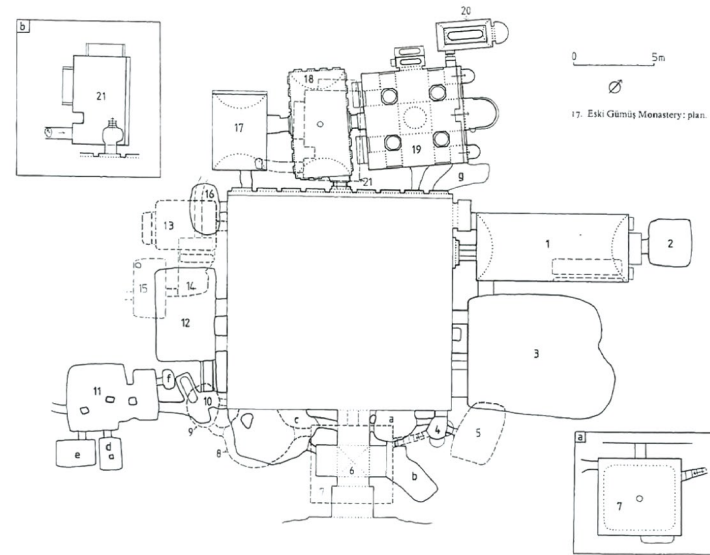


## The Art Carved into Rock





There are many monasteries carved into the rock in Cappadocia. It is one of the most beautiful and preserved works of Byzantine art. The site which was registered as an archaeological site in 1973, was carved into a very big and large rock mass. The monastery was carved from the bedrock between the 8th-12th centuries. It consists of a central courtyard and a church, underground spaces etc. outbuildings connected to this courtyard. The height of the steep walls of the courtyard is 14 m. The large room to the north and the central courtyard floor were used as cemeteries. The inner part of the western wall of the courtyard is carved in two layers. Downstairs you can reach the church section after the narthex section. Inside the closed Greek cross designed church, four pillars made of bedrock were plastered and decorated with rosette motifs. There are three tombs in two niches in the northern cross arm. To the west of the naos, there is a cradle vaulted entrance space.



The mural paintings were repaired by the British Archaeologist-Restorer Michael Gough in the 1960s. It is thought that at least three different masters worked in mural paintings of the church. At the top of the three strips in the main apse are the Deisis scene and the symbols of the Bible writers, while the bottom strip contains the pictures of the church fathers, such as Great Basileios of Kayseri, Gregory of Nyssa (Nevşehir), Gregorios of Nazianz (Bekarlar-Aksaray).



The Gospel to Mary, the scenes of the birth of Jesus and the Offering to the temple on the northern cross, and the figures of John the Baptist and St. Stephanus, must have been made by a second artist. The figures of Mary and child Jesus to the south of the gate with respect to the naos from the inner narthex and the archangels Gabriel and Mikael on both sides belong to a third artist. On the walls of a room above the narthex, there is a composition of hunting scenes and various animals that are not seen in Cappadocia before. According to the iconographical and stylistic features, the church paintings can be dated to 11th-12th centuries.